



Kendal Futures Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 22nd January 2020
3.00 to 5.00 pm, The Mintworks

Present:

Martyn Nicholson, Chair
Paula Scott, Kendal Futures
Susanne Long, Kendal Town Council
Louise Shrapnel, Kendal College
Julian Rayner, Transport/Distribution
Mark Cropper, Large Employers
Robin Ashcroft, South Lakeland District Council
Matt Williams, SLDC
Mandy Dixon, K Village and Tourism
Jamie Allison, Young Professionals Group
Cath Purdy, Housing
Derek Armstrong, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
John Haley, Professional Services
Brian Harrison, Kendal BID
Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee - tentative
Jim Bland, NFU

Apologies:

Rhian Harris, Culture & Festivals
Miriam Randall, Creative Industries & Innovation

1. Apologies and membership

The KFB elected John Haley as the Professional Services representative and Cath Purdy to represent Housing.

M Nicholson's term as Chair expired at this meeting. The KFB agreed that he should continue in his current role until June when the Vision would be published and next steps underway. Processes to elect a new Chair and handover by June will begin.

Jo Lappin from Cumbria LEP responded to the request for a LEP Board member to sit on the KFB and will ask her Board to consider this at their February meeting.

2. Declarations of interest

P Scott reminded the Board to renew their annual Declarations of Interest form. **ACTION ALL: To complete or update a declaration of interest form with P Scott.**

No declarations were made for the meeting agenda.

3. Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December were agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

4. Kendal Vision

Feedback on draft

The first visual draft of the Kendal Vision was shared the day before the meeting. P Scott explained there was still a great deal of work to do on a tight timescale if the agreed publication date of mid-February was still to be met.

The KFB discussed their comments and amendments which included:

- The need to summarise the process at the start of the document, with more detail to feature at the end or in an appendix.
- Shortening the history section
- Increasing the number of inspirational artist impressions or drawings
- Including a summary of the principles, such as what happens next and how to get involved in future.

M Dixon was concerned that K Village's live work units and affordable rented housing offer didn't feature in the Vision. The KFB said this was because the K Village work was already a reality and so didn't need to be included in the ideas based document, but both areas were important to the ongoing sustainable development of the town.

ACTION: P SCOTT to share the comments and feedback with Noel Farrer by Monday 27th January. ALL to forward any other comments by this date.

It was agreed that the finished Vision must have at least a 5-year lifespan and an acceptance that it reflects this current moment in time. It will create a forum for people to share their ideas. Updates must be detailed and shared as work progresses.

A final draft will be shared with key partners and stakeholders, including Karen Johnson at CCC, KTC and SLDC ahead of publication so they can correct any factual errors.

The KFB agreed that the publication of the Vision should be delayed if necessary as it was essential it was accurate and inspirational. The current timetable of mid-February should be adhered to as far as the consultants are concerned, but with an internal final deadline of end of February if necessary. It was also considered very important to get any remaining consultation and engagement work correct so that the involved communities and businesses have the information they need.

It was also agreed to launch the Vision and SLDC's Town Centre Strategy together. The two documents share several similar principles and describe how to achieve the future aspirations for the town. The TCS underpins the Vision with more detail about many of the opportunity sites. It is important to co-ordinate the messages and avoid confusion with the public, particularly in view of the high street task force announcement and possible future support.

M Cropper asked the KFB to consider contracting some additional resource and suggested Nick Taylor as an additional project officer. Nick was part of the JTP consultancy team and has previous experience of similar work in Scarborough. Private sector funders have indicated that they are keen to invest further to support more Vision development and delivery but would want public sector investment to match. M Cropper has agreed to contribute from his businesses.

The KFB agreed to contract Nick Taylor for a period in line with the private sector funding raised. His initial role will include raising additional private sector funding to support his role and ongoing development work, writing funding

applications to the public sector and other funding pots, and developing the action/working groups, volunteers and special interest areas.

R Ashcroft and M Williams reminded the KFB that SLDC is starting to develop their next Local Plan and would welcome a proposal for funding with the benefits outlined, particularly in terms of seed funding enabling the attraction of wider investment. **ACTION: P SCOTT to discuss and plan a funding request to SLDC.**

5. High Streets Task Force

M Williams reminded the KFB that SLDC applied to the Future High Streets Fund last year for Kendal which, although unsuccessful, received some positive feedback and there will be an opportunity to apply for round 2 funding in 2020. The Government has now formed the High Streets Task Force and Kendal has been selected as a pilot location. The Task Force will offer its expertise on how Kendal's high street can be improved and offer support for the next bid into the Future High Streets fund. A planned approach demonstrating partnership working will be vital.

A visit from the High Streets Task Force team is planned for March. SLDC will assemble a working group of 6-8 representatives, and will ask partners, including BID, CCC, KTC, Cumbria LEP and KF to nominate a representative. P Scott agreed to represent KF and share information and involve Board members as required to make the case for the arts/culture and professional services sectors.

6. Annual Report

A draft Annual Report was circulated ahead of the meeting and approved by the KFB. **ACTION: P SCOTT to get the report designed and share with partners.**

7. Regular agenda items

Markets tender: SLDC's markets tender is being checked by their legal team prior to issue. The KFB reiterated that they would like to be involved in the submission evaluation process.

S106 funding: M Williams reminded the KFB that SLDC has a £250k developer contribution from the Sainsbury's development to spend on improving the pedestrian route from the station/Longpool to the town centre. It needs to be spent by 2023 and a 2-year extension can be requested. Previously, it had been agreed to use the funding for smaller improvements tagged on to a CCC planned road/paving improvement scheme to stretch the funding. However, M Williams suggested holding the funds to use as match against a future Vision project which would have more impact.

The KFB asked if the s106 monies could be spent on consultants to design a scheme and would they have to be on CCCs Framework, which they felt didn't necessarily result in best value or innovative schemes?

ACTION: M WILLIAMS to investigate whether the s106 monies could cover the cost of consultants and P SCOTT and M WILLIAMS to discuss framework procurement issues with CCC.

8. Partner and project updates

Young Professionals Group: J Allison requested a Vision presentation be made to the group when published.

ACTION: P SCOTT to co-ordinate a presentation.

SLDC: M Williams reminded the group that the Local Plan team are very keen to hear business views, barriers and concerns so the plan can support their future aspirations.

Kendal BID: B Harrison said the BID were inviting festivals to be represented on their board of directors.

CCC/KTC: G Cook reported that KTC has agreed to increase its precept on Kendal residents to contribute towards the cost of mitigation measures for the flood defences, including the increased use of glass walls.

M Cropper asked for news about the Environment Agency's Arts and Culture Strategy. S Long clarified that while possible ideas were presented a few months ago, a strategy hasn't been seen yet.

KTC: S Long said KTC is offering additional budget to support the flood defence mitigation measures, but everything is still at an ideas stage with no decisions made on what those measures should be. Money has also been set aside for improving biodiversity and for the maintenance of another CCTV camera on Gooseholme. A study about a possible 20s Plenty scheme is also planned, along with funding allocated for P Scott's KF role, some ongoing projects, including Visit-Kendal and possibly an additional £5k to support future Vision work.

Housing: C Purdy said the planning process is currently the biggest barrier to developing new housing and M Nicholson agreed on behalf of the private sector. **ACTION: M WILLIAMS will follow up with the planning team at SLDC and report back now that the organisation's restructure is almost complete.**

NFU: J Bland reported that the new Agricultural bill has gone to Parliament and will result in additional environmental improvements. The coastal path around Morecambe Bay is progressing.

CoC: D Armstrong said the Cumbria Growth Hub is delivering a Cumbria LEP business support programme, Catalyst, aimed at retail and small B&Bs. The South Lakes Business Against Crime partnership has funded a new CCTV camera in Library Road and an app is being developed to help businesses identify people who are barred or on a watch list for shops and pubs.

The annual SLDC and CoC Partners dinner will be held on Friday 13th March. Tickets are on sale with tables costing £400 + VAT. A budget response meeting will also be held on Friday 13th March at 8 am at the Castle Green Hotel.

K Village: M Dixon said a lot of vandalism is taking place around the K Village site, mainly created by 12-17 year olds.

Kendal College: L Shrapnel reported that the college is applying for grant funding to upgrade the motor vehicle department to train the engineers of the future in electric technologies. She also announced that she is retiring from the College later this year, and the Principal, Kelvin Nash will take over her KFB place and may begin to attend meetings sooner.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 4th March – Kendal Town Hall – 3 – 5 pm

Following this meeting, it was decided to change the next KFB meeting to a Vision launch meeting in the Town Hall with all Board members in attendance, plus partners, funders and guests.